

HALF-YEARLY REPORTS

OF THE

Southampton Conferences

OF

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF

LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

Held in Southampton,

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JUNE 8 AND 9, 1850.

T. B. H. STENHOUSE, *President.*
J. SHEPHERD, *Secretary.*

ALSO,

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1850.

W. C. DUNBAR, *President.*
A. STAYNER, *Secretary.*

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 1851.

W. C. DUNBAR, *President.*
T. STAYNER, *Secretary.*

AND IN PORTSMOUTH, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 13 AND 14, 1851.

W. C. DUNBAR, *President.*
C. KIMISH, *Secretary.*

PORTSMOUTH.

V. EDDINGTON, GREAT CHARLOTTE STREET, LONDON.

CONFERENCE REPORTS.

The First Meeting of the Southampton Conference was held on Saturday, June 8th, 1880. The Conference was opened by singing, and prayer by Lorenzo Snow. Officers present—Lorenzo Snow, of the Quorum of Twelve, 5 Elders, 6 Priests, 1 Teacher, and 2 Deacons. It was unanimously resolved that Elder T. B. H. Stenhouse take the Presidency of the Meeting, and that J. Shepherd act as Secretary. Business commenced with the representation of the Branches, as follows:—

No.	Branch.	Represented by	Elders.	Presby.	Teachers.	Deacons.	Total Mem- bers (Officers included)
1	Southampton	Elder Stenhouse	4	5	3	2	119
2	Fair Oak	H. Wild	1		1	1	19
3	Poole	James Cowdy	1	1	1		14
Scott. Missions.	Queen's Forest Blandford	G. Keston		1			7
		G. Spiller		1			7
		Total . .	6	8	4	3	166

After which it was resolved,—That the Saints in Blandford be organized, and called the Blandford Branch; and that Priest Spiller be ordained an Elder, and preside over it. Several Brethren were then appointed to receive the Priesthood. Resolved,—That Br. Bench be Treasurer for the Perpetual Emigration Fund. Several Members were excommunicated for misconduct, after which the meeting adjourned till Sunday morning.

Sunday.—Meeting commenced at eleven o'clock by singing and prayer. Elders Snow and Stenhouse occupied the time addressing the saints. Adjourned till half-past two, when the Saints re-assembled. Resolved,—That the Saints in the Queen's Forest be organized, and called the Queen's Forest Branch; and that Priest Keston be ordained an Elder, and preside over it. Resolved,—That the Council see that Sister Stenhouse be provided for while her husband is gone on a mission to Italy. Meeting again adjourned till half-past six, when Elders Snow, Margette and Stenhouse addressed the meeting. The Conference closed by a benediction from Elder Snow. The spirit of love, union and peace prevailed during the whole of the proceedings.

T. B. H. STENHOUSE, *President*,
J. SHEPHERD, *Secretary*.

ELDER STENHOUSE'S NOTE OF COMMENDATION.

To the Saints throughout the World, greeting.

We, the undersigned Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, do hereby testify,—That Elder T. B. H. STENHOUSE has in every respect conducted himself as a servant of the Most High; that he was the first Elder who introduced the Gospel into the town of Southampton, and by his indefatigable exertions, patience and perseverance raised up the Southampton Conference, now numbering 5 Branches, and 166 Members; and now that he is about to proceed on a mission to Italy, we with pleasure bear testimony to the soundness of his teachings, to his unwearying zeal in defending and advocating the principles of truth, and to the purity and correctness of his deportment, in public as a minister of the Gospel, and

in private as a counsellor and friend. In conclusion, we earnestly pray that He who so signally blessed and owned his labours in this land, will also bless and crown his labours with great success in a foreign land, causing many hearts, like ours, to rejoice in the fulness of the Gospel. Even so, Amen.

Southampton Branch	HENRY THOMAS.
" "	JOSEPH SILVER.
" "	WILLIAM BENNIE.
" "	GEORGE WARD.
Fair Oak "	HENRY WILD, President.
Poole "	JAMES COWDY, do.
Blomford "	GEORGE KEATON, do.
Queen's Forest	GEORGE KEATON, do.

July 28th, 1851.

[Dictated by W. C. DUNBAR, President of the Southampton Conference.]

MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE HELD IN SOUTHAMPTON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1850.

The meeting was opened at eleven o'clock, by singing and prayer. Elder Thomas proposed and Elder Clark seconded, that W. C. Dunbar take the Presidency of the meeting—all hands up.

Elder Dorman then arose and said,—“Beloved saints, I rejoice in having sufficient strength to be enabled to appear among you on the present important occasion. I have, of late, been prevented from appearing in your midst in consequence of severe indisposition; and, at the present time, I feel that I shall require the power of God, through your prayers, to sustain me. I will not at present offer many remarks, as we have limited time, and a considerable deal of business to attend to; but will give such instruction and counsel as circumstances may require, and the Spirit dictate.”

A vote was then called for to sustain Arthur Stayner as Secretary; after which the various branches were represented, as follows:—

No.	Branch.	Represented by	Elders.	Priests.	Teachers.	Deacons.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Renewed.	Emigrated.	Cut off.	Total of Members.	Presidents' Names.
1	Southampton	Elder Thomas	4	4	2	17	4	28		1	3	118	Er. Thomas
2	Fair Oak	" Wild	2			2					3	18	" Wild
3	Poole	" Cowdy	1		1	2		1	2		1	18	" Cowdy
4	Bittern	Priest Bayles		1		5		7	1			14	Prest. Bayles
5	Queen's Forest	Elder Keaton	1	2	1	14						21	Er. Keaton
6	Romsey	" Silver	1	1		18	4				3	21	" Silver
7	Blomford	Priest Shephard		1		2		1	1		1	10	Prest. Shephard
8	*Petersmouth	Elder Clark	2	2	2	17		1	1		3	44	Er. Clark
9	Gosport	" Wilkins	1	1		4						33	" Wilkins
10	*Salisbury	" Silver		2	2	1	2	2				30	" Silver
	Isle of Wight	" Harder	1			8						9	" Harder
	Winchester	E. T. Stayner	1			16						17	" Stayner
Total.			15	18	11	5	114	20	35	1	15	444	

Amount donated for the President of the Conference from July 1st to December 8, 1850, . . . £10 18s. 6½d.

* Portsmouth and Gosport Branches were received from the London Conference.
† Received from the South Conference.

After the representation of branches, Elder DUNNAN said:—"I wish to make a few remarks on the subject of voting. In this church every member has a responsibility, and has therefore a voice in its business; and although lifting up our hand seems a very simple act, allow me to say it is one of great importance. When we lift up our hands, brothers and sisters, we lift them up in the sight of heaven, thereby making covenant to carry out, by every means in our power, the measure to which we give our support; therefore use your privilege, and vote either for or against, like free men and women. But I feel there is too much of the Spirit of God heretoday to have a dissenting voice—we will have union."

The following resolutions were then passed without one dissenting voice:—

Resolved:—That this Conference uphold Brigham Young as First President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the whole world.

Resolved:—That we uphold Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards, as counsellors to President Young.

Resolved:—That we uphold the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Orson Hyde as President thereof.

Resolved:—That we uphold Orson Pratt, as President of the Church in the British Isles.

Resolved:—That when Orson Pratt takes his departure for the valley, we will uphold Franklin D. Richards, as President, and George E. Wallace and Levi Richards, as his counsellors.

Resolved:—That we sustain the Presidents of the various branches of the Southampton Conference.

Resolved:—That we sustain W. C. Dunbar, as President of the Southampton Conference.

Elder DUNNAN arose and said:—"As we are about to propose some ordinations in the various branches of the Conference, I will make a few observations upon that subject to the Presidents of the branches. Brethren, 'Lay hands suddenly upon no man.' In choosing men to stand in holy places, do not be in haste—know something of their private conduct, and if their circumstances will allow them to magnify their office. It is not proper to give a man an office merely because he desires it. See that he rules his house properly, that he is industrious in his business, and kind and attentive to his family; and when you do ordain him, see that you give him plenty to do—if you don't, the devil will."

Several Brethren were then appointed to fill various offices, after which it was

Resolved:—That the saints in Redlinch be organized into a branch.

Resolved:—That the saints in the Isle of Wight be organized into a branch, and Elder Harder take the presidency of it.

Resolved:—That the saints in Winchester be organized into a branch, and that Elder Thomas Stoyner be president of it.

Resolved:—That the saints in Bedford-place be organized into a branch, Elder Ward to preside over it.

Resolved:—That Elder Silver take the charge of the Salisbury, Redlinch, and Rensley branches.

Book Agent's account:—

Due by the branches	£7 7 9	Owing to the office in Liverpool	£13 12 6½
Books and money in hand	6 16 7½		
	£14 4 4½		£13 12 6½

Resolved:—That Elder Thomas be sustained as Conference book agent.

Br. DUNNAN said:—"I consider that £7 7s. 9d. is too much lying out among such small branches; brethren, see that your branch agents square up accounts as soon as possible."

Resolved:—That every branch send their contributions for the support of Elder Dunbar once every month.

Elder Thomas then gave an account of monies received and expended for support of President and family, which gave satisfaction to all.

Priest Bench gave a report of the Emigration Fund:—

Received	£2 15 0	Paid	£1 15 0
Balance			£1 0 0

Resolved:—That N. Shepherd be Treasurer for the Perpetual Emigration Fund, instead of Br. Bench, about to emigrate.

Elder Dymally again rose and said:—"Dear saints, I will now say a few words regarding the distribution of tracts. The Lord has sent an holy angel with the fulness of the Gospel, bringing salvation to the obedient, and condemnation to the disobedient. We have received that Gospel—light and intelligence have dawned upon our minds, causing our hearts to rejoice in the liberty of God's free children. This being the case, it becomes every saint to warn their neighbours by some means or another. It is not convenient to do so personally; but we can do it by paying a half-penny per week, and establishing Tract Societies throughout the Conference. Let the presidents of branches see that this is attended to with more zeal than formerly. Do not faint in your exertions; if by distributing ten thousand tracts you save but one soul, you would be amply rewarded! Who can tell the value of a single soul? No one here, I presume. Remember, it is not the Elders only who are to be rewarded—the Sisters will have a right to claim a share; therefore work. Let your watchword be, 'Onward,' regardless of trouble. 'The harvest is great—the labourers are few.' I should like, also, to see Book Clubs established among the saints. Every Latter-Day Saint ought to have the printed works of the Church, which contain knowledge regarding the dealings of God with man in this our day. You ought to be able to silence the disputers yourselves; instead of which you are sometimes confounded, and obliged to say, 'I don't know much, but I will take you to the Elder.' Seek for knowledge then, brothers and sisters, and you shall stand."

Elder Margetts, President of the London Conference, then addressed the saints for a short time, showing the prosperity of the work in his field of labour; after which the meeting adjourned till half-past two.

Afternoon.—Meeting opened at half-past two by Elder Thomas, after which Elder Dunbar called upon the presidents of branches to address the meeting. The time was spent in listening to their statements, in which they spoke of the progress and future prospects of the work in their various districts, which was generally cheering, although some of the branches are not in a prosperous condition. Elder Dunbar gave some counsel regarding the introduction of the Gospel into new places, showing that it was not proper to rail against parties, but to bear testimony of the truth in power and meekness.

Evening.—Elder Margetts delivered an interesting discourse; the room was filled, and the greatest attention was paid to the speaker.—The Conference closed with singing and prayer.

During the whole of the proceedings union, peace and happiness prevailed.

W. C. DUNBAR, *President*.
T. STAYNER, *Secretary*.

MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE HELD IN SOUTHAMPTON, MAY 28th, 1851.

Meeting opened by singing and prayer. Elder T. B. H. Steenhous (who was present on a visit from Italy) proposed, and Elder Thomas seconded, that W. C. Dunbar preside over the meeting: carried unanimously. Elder Dunbar gave out a hymn, after which he called for a vote appointing T. Stayner to act as Secretary, gave an interesting address,* and then called for the representation of branches, as follows:—

* It was not reported.

No.	Branch.	Represented by	Men.	Women.	Children.	Teachers.	Deacons.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Renowned.	Out off.	Number of Members.	Amount donated towards support of Pres. of clothes for of Conference the President and family.	Amount donated towards the President of Conference.	Amount donated towards the Emigration Fund.	Amount due by the Sub-Agents to the General Star and Book Agent.	Presidents' Names.
1	Southampton	Elder Thomas	5	4	5	2	2	5	5	8 10	5	95	6 2 24	1 4 11	3 4	5 8 114	Elder Thomas
2	Porton	" Eldington	5	5	5	2	2	2	2	20 11	1	196	6 7 3	1 13 6	1 6 5	9 1 7	" Eldington
3	Bonny	" Silver	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	18	1 3	1 13 6	2 1	4 0	" Silver
4	Redfish	" Stoyner	1	2	1	18	1	18	1	2	2	32	1 34	3 12	3 12	7 64	" Stoyner
5	Whicaster	" Wilkins	1	1	1	11	1	11	2	9	1	29	1 34			4 9 2	" Wilkins
6	Goopart	" Bayless	1	1	1	13	1	13	1	1	1	35	13 3				" Bayless
7	Bitara	" Harber	1	1	1	5	1	5	6	2	2	15			5 10	11 94	" Harber
8	Newport, L. W.	" Wilkie	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	8	8	13	1 3				" Wilkie
9	Landsport	" Weston	1	2	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	21	6 3		6 10	15 4	" Weston
10	Queen's Forest	Priest Pusey	1	1	1	4	1	4	6	1	1	10	19 94				Priest Pusey
11	Bedford-place	Elder Spiller	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	4	10				6 0	Elder Spiller
12	Salisbury	" Cowdy	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	11	15 64		2 0		" Cowdy
13	Poco	" Wild	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	17			2 4		" Wild
14	Fair Oak	" Cowdy	1	1	1	16	1	16	4			20				4 8 104	" Cowdy
15	Chichester		1	1	1							9					
	Southern Menu.		1425	1710	1112	53	47	3218	1499	18	3 114	2 18 6	1 11 34	25 17 5			

Due by the General Agent to the Liverpool office £30 4 2½	Amount due by the branches £25 17 6
	Due by the Southampton Tract Society 0 5 2½
	Books in hand 2 3 6
	Money in hand 1 17 6
£30 4 2½	£30 4 2½

After the representation of branches, Elder Dunbar made a few remarks on the organization of the Church, and laid the following resolutions before the Conference:—

Resolved:—That this Conference uphold Brigham Young as First President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the whole world.

Resolved:—That we uphold Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards, as his counsellors.

Resolved:—That we uphold the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, with Orson Hyde as President.

Resolved:—That we uphold Franklin D. Richards, as President of the Church in the British Isles, and George R. Wallace and Levi Richards, as his counsellors.

Resolved:—That we sustain the Presidents of the various branches of the Southampton Conference.

Resolved:—That we sustain W. C. Dunbar, as President of the Southampton Conference.

The above resolutions were passed without one dissenting voice.

The General Book Agents account was then read: after which Elder Dunbar rose and spoke at some length, showing the necessity of the saints paying to the Emigration Fund.

Resolved:—That William Eddington, of Portsmouth, be General Book and Star Agent for the Conference.

Elder Duvanan said:—"I want to say a few words regarding the Book Agency. I have not made a change because I had not confidence in our former Agent, Elder Thomas, but because Elder Eddington has a large bookseller's shop, where our works can be exposed for sale. I want Elder Eddington to let the works of the Church take the most prominent position in his shop, and not have them out of sight on the most secluded shelf. Many of the saints hide their religion for fear of injuring their business; but I tell you, brethren, the man who will fearlessly, at the same time wisely, seek to advance the interest of the kingdom of God, will be blessed in time and eternity. Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and leave yourselves in the hands of the Almighty, and all will be well. If your business succeeds, all right; if it fails, all right—all things will work round for good to them who keep the commandments of God."

The Presidents of Branches were then called upon severally to represent the condition and prospects of their fields of labour, which were generally good. Several ordinations were then proposed for the various Branches.

Afternoon.—Meeting opened at half-past two with singing and prayer.

Elder Duvanan arose and said:—"Dear brethren and fellow labourers, I feel thankful to God for the success which has attended our united exertions. True, some of you have not baptized many persons; but I know you have laboured hard, and done your best. I consider it wrong to judge by the number of baptisms—the Gospel must be preached to those who will not receive it, as well as to those who will; therefore let not your hearts be discouraged, brethren, but lift up your heads and rejoice. Go forth in faith, with much prayer, seeking wisdom from above to guide you in all matters. May the Spirit and power of your office rest upon you in returning to your duties! Amen."

Elder Dunbar then inquired if there were any brethren ready and willing to go out into the field without purse or scrip, trusting to the mercies of God?

Br. Sims offered himself, said he was willing to go forth, and do a work for God, by the assistance of his Spirit.

Dr. Tosman also offered himself, said he was very weak, but if the saints prayed for him he would do his best.
Resolved:—That they be ordained Priests, and labour in the Conference as they might be counselled.

Officers present:—1 High Priest, 14 Elders, 12 Priests, 3 Teachers, 1 Deacons.

Evening.—Meeting opened at half-past six. After a few remarks from Elder Dunbar, Elder Sienhouse addressed the saints, relating his reception in Italy, his prospects, &c., which interested the saints much.

The Conference concluded without a discordant feeling making itself manifest, while the saints returned home much refreshed.

W. C. DUNBAR, *President*.
T. STAYNER, *Secretary*.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTHAMPTON CONFERENCE,

HELD IN PORTSMOUTH,

ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 AND 14, 1851.

The Presidents of Branches, travelling Elders, and a number of Members, assembled at half-past seven in the evening. Elder Dunbar, President of the Conference, opened the meeting by giving out a hymn. Elder Jacob Gates (one of the Quorums of Seventies) engaged in prayer. Elder Dunbar then arose and gave a short address; after which it was resolved that Charles Kimish act as Secretary, assisted by Charles Savage. The President then called for the representation of Branches, which was given as follows (errors excepted):—

No.	Branch.	Represented by	Elders.	Priests.	Teachers.	Deacons.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Removed.	Cut off.	Dead.	Number of Members.	Amount donated towards support of Conference and family.	Amount donated towards the Perpetual Dispensation Fund.	Conference Trust fund.	Amount due to the Gen. Agent for Books and Stems.	No. of Tracts in Circulation.	No. of Bibles Circulated.
1	Lebanon	Elder Edlington	2	7	6	2	29	16	9	7	1178	13 1 6	1 0 0	4	1 11	2 6 8	160	1050
2	Southampton	" Thomas	4	3	2	2	8	2	10	8	1	79	3 1 64	2 8	1 8 4	2 19 44	50	1000
3	Gosport	" Wilkins	1	1	2	18	3	3	3	1	64	1 4 0	1 0 8	1	1 6 7	1 16 78	129	200
4	Bethlehem	" Good	2	1	2	1	7	1	1	1	30				4 3	14 5	250	300
5	Newport, I. W.	" Murder	1	2	1	1	11	1	1	1	21	1 11 9		4 3	2 6	8 9	330	100
6	Chatham	" Cowdy	1	2	1	1	4	1	1	1	18				2 45	3 7	24	100
7	Landport	" White	1	1	1	11	1	1	1	1	1	1				11 2	24	100
8	Waverbur	" Smith	1	1	1	1	1	4	3	1	15				2 45	11 2	24	100
9	Burns	" Smith	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	9 10 4	12 43	2 45	8 9	66	100
10	Bedford-places	" Peasey	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	12	18 11			2 45	11 2	24	100
11	Salisbury	By Letter	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	2 7			2 45	11 2	24	100
12	Queen's Forest	Elder Gals	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	2 7			2 45	11 2	24	100
13	Fort Oak	" Wild	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	2 7			2 45	11 2	24	100
14	Denney	By Letter	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	2 7			2 45	11 2	24	100
15	Gouldford	Elder Keaton	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	2 7			2 45	11 2	24	100
16	Scattered Members	" Silver	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	2 7			2 45	11 2	24	100
17	Scattered Members	Priest Archer	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	2 7			2 45	11 2	24	100

* Elder Spiller, No. 61, for Books.

After the representation of Branches, the President asked if any ordinations were required for the Branches? Several propositions were then made by each of the Presidents, in rotation: after which they gave a statement of their present position and prospects, as follows:—

Elder RUTHERFORD rose and said:—"Beloved President and Brethren, I rejoice to have the privilege of stating my feelings in regard to the present standing and future prospects of the Portsea Branch, which, I am proud to say, are good. The saints are rejoicing in the principles of the church—love and unity prevail in their bosoms—every thing moves on in concord and peace—the Tract Societies go on well—in fact, the Branch improves much in money matters. Our meetings are well attended—a spirit of inquiry seems to pervade the minds of the people, and many without will see the necessity of casting in their lot with us."

Elder THOMAS said:—"I am happy to be present with you, but must say that the present standing of the Southampton Branch is not good. We have cut off several bad members, who ought to have been excommunicated long before Elder Dunbar came to the Conference. The prospect, however, is rather better lately; our meetings are much better attended on Sunday evenings, so that I expect many will obey in the forthcoming six months."

Elder WILKINS said:—"The work is rolling on gloriously in Gosport. Many intelligent people are seriously investigating the truth. We have for some time been preaching in a private house; but now we have a large commodious room in the Market-house, where we have a good attendance of strangers. The saints enjoy much of the spirit of God, and dwell in peace and unity."

Elder SMITH said:—"Dear Brethren, I am happy to say that the saints in Redfinch are in very good standing—they are bound by the cords of love and unity, and rejoice in the great work of God in which they are engaged; but they are very poor, and able to do but little for the support of the cause—but they do the best they can."

Elder HAZEN said:—"I am happy to have the privilege of meeting with you at this time, although I have not baptized so many people as I should have liked. Many are seeking after the principles, but are very slow to obey; but I hope in the next six months we shall do more—I am determined to do all I can. The Lord has blessed me very much—I cannot tell you how I have lived, but the Lord has opened up my way continually."

Elder COWIE said:—"The prospects in Chichester are somewhat better lately. Many people are reading the tracts, and seem much interested in the truth. But I have had much to contend against; in a cathedral town the people are bound down by priestcraft, and are afraid to obey the Gospel for fear of losing their livelihood—however, I believe that a great work will be done there. I expect to baptize some when I return."

Elder SMITH said:—"The prospect in Winchester is not good; but if a good man was sent there, I know there are many good people who would obey the Gospel—there are a few good saints there who are willing to do what they can to help it on. The prospects in Bittern are very bad at present; I hear they have got a room more in the village, perhaps they

may do better now, but I am afraid they will not baptize any for some time."

Elder WILLIS said:—"The saints in Landport are in good standing, and their hearts, moved upon by the Spirit of God to do his will upon the earth, are determined to roll forth his mighty purposes in the six months to come—I pray that it may be so."

Elder GALT said:—"I cannot give very good prospects of doing a great deal. The people are much scattered; at the same time I believe, by the blessing of God, a few more will be gathered out. I preach often in the village of No Man's Land, where some are reading the tracts; but I do not know if I shall have the room much longer. I am happy to say, however, that the saints are united, and endeavour to keep the commandments of God."

Elder KLETON said:—"Beloved brethren, I rejoice much in having the opportunity of standing before you, to let you know how I have succeeded in the new field of labour, to which I was lately sent by Elder Dunbar. It is, however, impossible for me to find language to express my present feelings; but I would just say, the Lord has indeed been kind to me, especially on this last mission—he has opened up my way in a marvellous manner. I arrived in Guildford without a half-penny in my possession, a perfect stranger; but I put my trust in God—I had confidence he would open my way, and he has done it. I have organized a branch of 17 Members, who enjoy much of the Holy Ghost, and the gifts and blessings of the Spirit. The ministers are doing all they can to stop the work, but in spite of the efforts of men and devils it shall roll on."

Elder SILVER said:—"The Lord has greatly blessed me also in my travels to preach the Gospel of the Son of God, although I have not baptized quite so many as I should have wished. You are aware that I was sent to a new field of labour—well, I have been much tried by the devil; but I know it is the work of God I am engaged in, and, by the assistance of the Spirit of God, I am determined to bring my fellow men to a knowledge of the truth. I have only baptized three; but many good people are inquiring, and, if I remain there, I believe a good work will be done."

Elder SPILLER said:—"Two months ago I was sent to my present field of labour without money or friends; but the Lord has opened the hearts of the people, so that I have had those things necessary for my support. There seems to be many honest people who are desiring the truth, but are afraid to obey it. I have sown much seed, and believe it will take root and bring forth fruit in due time."

Priest ACHAMUS said:—"The prospects are not so good as I should like; but I have sown the seed, and believe that it will be like the broad cast upon the waters, and will be seen after many days."

Elder WAIN said:—"The prospect is very bad; some of the saints are not very faithful, and very few seek after the truth. I sometimes have a visit from some of the hired priests, but I generally give them their answer. I pray that the Spirit of God may direct me continually, so that I may be enabled to do my duty. I desire the prayers of the saints, as I am very weak and unlearned."

Resolved:—That Priest Arther be ordained an Elder, and travel in Salisbury, Redlinch, and adjacent villages.

Resolved:—That Elder Smith take the oversight of Southampton, Bittern, and Bedford-place branches.

Resolved:—That Elder Bodge labour in Winchester, Fair Oak, and vicinity.

SUNDAY MORNING.

Meeting opened at a quarter to eleven, by singing and prayer.

Elder DUNHAM said:—"Dear Brethren in the Priesthood and Saints, It is with feelings of gratitude to God my Father that I stand before you this morning. I feel very unwell, and weak in body; but when I look around me, and see the array of strength upon this platform, I feel that I shall have strength sufficient to enable me to perform the duties devolving upon me this day. I anticipated the pleasure of having Elder F. D. Richards, our President, at our Conference; but pressure of business has prevented him. I feel assured, however, that we have his blessing and prayers, that we may have a good Conference. I was very desirous of having some one of the American brethren with us, knowing that they have had much experience, and are able to give us much valuable instruction. I am happy to inform you, I have not been unsuccessful. Here is Elder Jacob Gates, delegated by Elder Richards, present on the stand; also Elder Rostron, your future President. I am happy to say, we transacted the most tedious part of our Conference business last night, so that we shall have more time for counsel, teaching and instruction. I will now call upon Elder Eddington, Conference Book and Star Agent, to give an account of his agency."

Elder Eddington gave the following report:—

To amount due to the office in		Amount due by the branches	
Liverpool		(see report page)	
£31	1 2½	Stock in hand	£16 18 6½
		Cash in hand	9 18 10
			4 5 10
£31	1 2½		£31 1 2½
Amount received for the Conference Tract Fund (see report page)		By Tracts given to the various Elders:—	
£7	18 6½	473 16-page Tracts (covered)	£4 16 7
		268 8-page ditto ditto	0 0 4
		1 Door Bill	0 0 4
		950 Invitations	0 8 4
		8 Door Bills in hand	0 2 8
		By Emigration of Bro. Burton	
		Flanigan and Barnes	9 17 7
		By Tracts to Br. Arther	0 1 0½
£7	18 6½		£7 18 6½
Perpetual Emigration Fund:—			
Received (see report page)	£3 3 0	Sent to Liverpool	£3 3 0
Amount donated for the support of Elder Dunham's family, paper, pens, postage stamps for Conference Clerk, &c. (see report page)		£21 16s. 1½d.	

Elder DUNBAR arose and said:—"I wish to say a few words in connexion with the Book and Star Agency. You see by the report that we have made considerable improvement in the sale of the printed word—we have sold Books and Stars, from July 3 to December 14, 1851, to the amount of £33 9s. 4d. You may think that our debt to the Liverpool office is small, but I think it might be less. In visiting the Branches lately, I suggested to the Presidents the propriety of using their influence in getting the Books and Stars on hand paid for, and held as the property of each Branch. You will see, in the last Star, President Richards mentions the same thing; therefore, brethren, do all you can to make your debt to Elder Eddington as small as possible. I propose that Elder Eddington be supported as Agent for the Conference. (Carried unanimously.) I have also a few remarks to make in regard to the Perpetual Emigration Fund. In six months the sum of £3 3s. 0d. has been donated to this fund by about 500 individuals; now, if the saints in Portsea Branch alone, which numbers 178 Members, were to donate one penny each per week, it would amount to upwards of £19. Some of the saints have remarked, that, as they intend to pay their own expenses to the valley, they were not expected to donate to this fund. This is a miserable idea! If the saints in America, who have been driven from city to city, from village to village, and from state to state—robbed of their all time after time—had acted upon this principle, what would our position be to-day? And after being driven hundreds of miles from the habitations of civilized men, did they forget the poor in this country? No! They were the first to donate their hundreds of dollars into the fund, not from any selfish motives—they were already gathered—but because their hearts were filled with philanthropy and benevolence towards the suffering and toiling saints in these lands. Therefore let the poor do all they can, and the rich do four times as much, and they will have the reflection that they have assisted to fulfil the word of God, in gathering his people. I propose a vote of thanks to Br. Shepherd, for acting as Treasurer for this fund (carried); but if it necessary, as Portsmouth is the most important Branch, that we have the Treasurer here; I therefore move that Br. Reynolds act as Treasurer for this and all other Conference money, and that Elder Kimish act as Conference Secretary (carried unanimously). I also wish the Presidents of Branches to see that proper persons are appointed to keep books, particularly in money matters; and when any monies are paid, let a receipt be given for it; and instead of paying it to any person passing along, send it by post-office order to the General Treasurer. I know that many of the Branches are poor, but not so poor that they cannot pay four-pence a month for an order and a stamp—why, a farthing from each of your Members would do it. Be particular then, brethren, and attend to all these things in a business-like manner. We are brethren, it is true; but brethren have had memories, and may make mistakes. We will now take a vote to sustain the various authorities."

Resolved:—That we uphold Brigham Young as President, Prophet, and Revelator of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for all the world.

Resolved:—That we sustain Heber C. Kimball and Willard Richards as counsellors.

Resolved:—That we sustain the Quorum of the Twelve, with Orson Hyde as president.

Resolved:—That we sustain Franklin D. Richards as president of the Churches in this country, with Elders Wallace and Levi Richards as his counsellors.

Resolved:—That we sustain the various Foreign Missions by our faith, prayers and money, when called upon.

Resolved:—That we sustain the various Presidents of Branches, Travelling Elders and Priests, in their various fields of labour.

Motioned by Elder JACOB GATES:—That Br. Dunbar receive a vote of thanks for the orderly manner in which he has conducted the Business of the Conference.—Carried.

Resolved:—That Elder Dunbar receive a Letter of Commendation.

All the above resolutions were carried unanimously.

Elder DUNBAR arose and said:—"I think we have now transacted all the business necessary to be brought before you; I will therefore say a few words upon another subject. You are aware, by this time, that I intend taking my departure from this land, and going to the valley of the mountains. I will not multiply words upon the subject, but merely say, that the sum of money promised will not be enough, and would therefore wish the saints to make every effort to raise some more in the two weeks that remain. And now, brethren and sisters, I withdraw from the Presidency of the Southampton Conference. My successor, Elder ROSTRON, is present—I will read his appointment."

Elder Dunbar then read his appointment, after which it was—

Resolved unanimously:—That Elder ROSTRON be received as President of the Southampton Conference.

Elder DUNBAR then continued and said (turning round to Elder R.):—"I consider it right to say, that the Priesthood in this Conference are good men: you have only to give them a hint of what you wish done, and without any objections they will do it. I have spent, indeed, a pleasant time in the Portsea Council; all is peace—no contention; every one anxious to learn;—and although I have not said to them, 'Ye shall do so and so, they have always with readiness carried out my plans, and seemed to consider that I knew best what would be the means of rolling on the work of God. And now I would say, brethren, uphold and sustain your future President as you have sustained me, and all will be well; and I will predict that a great work will be done in this Conference; and next half-year's Conference you will have baptized 150 or 200 individuals into the Church. May God bless you all, and enable us to stand, so that we may meet in Zion! The rest of the time I will leave for Elder Gates to occupy."

ELDER GATES then arose and said:—"Dear Brethren and Sisters, I have been much edified and instructed in listening to your reports. Although you are strangers to me, I find you are not strangers to the order and spirit of the kingdom of God. Union and love seem to prevail among this people, which reflects great honour on Elder Dunbar,

and shows he has done his duty well. While sitting here, my mind has been carried away far from this place, and led to dwell on circumstances which occurred some years ago. I looked back to the time when, nineteen years ago, I received the Gospel as restored in this last dispensation of time. Scenes long since passed came fresh before my mind. You may think you suffer and sacrifice a great deal in this country, but you know little about it. The saints in America have been called to place their all on the altar of sacrifice, even to life itself. I have myself been tried for my life for saying very little more than what some of your Elders have said many times, namely, that God had set to his hand to build up his kingdom, never to be cast down or left to other people, but break in pieces every other kingdom, and fill the whole earth. Although these statements are to be found in the Bible, because we believed in them, it excited the jealousy, envy and anger of wicked men; for this we have been called to suffer all the time. The saints have been driven from state to state, plundered and robbed, and many have laid down their lives. Yea, I have seen our beloved prophet and patriarch bidding farewell to the saints in Nauvoo, when going full of life to Carthage, and carried back dead—a noble martyr to the cause of truth! And now, after the saints have been driven more than a thousand miles from civilization among the snow-clad mountains, and I look upon Zion rising in strength, I feel to rejoice in the God of Israel. I was pleased with the remarks made by Elder Dunbar regarding the saints in the valley being the first to start the Emigration Fund. They at first thought of gathering the saints who had been driven from Nauvoo; but the Spirit moved upon the heart of Brigham Young to make it perpetual and universal—to extend it to the poor of all nations, until all are gathered to Zion, and receive temporal and spiritual blessings in the house of the Lord. Let the rich give of their abundance to assist in gathering the poor, and they shall be saved. Although the Scriptures say it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom, it is not because it is a sin to have riches, but because they generally turn men's hearts from God. Let the saints be faithful, and they shall receive celestial riches which will not fade away. I am glad to hear that Elder Dunbar is about to go up to Zion—not to sit at ease, don't think it for a moment—he is just going to get his house built, and his family settled, and go to school awhile, and he will scarcely have done so when he will be sent to other nations to preach the Gospel. I feel interested in his emigration, because I believe the Spirit says to him, 'Go.' He has laboured faithfully for about ten years, and he is worthy to go. But the sum you have promised to raise will not be enough to do it; he would have to stay in St. Louis, and very likely die there; and I am sure you would not like to hear of it for the sake of raising a few pounds more to take him all the way: in fact, I know that Elder Richards would not allow him to start unless he had sufficient; therefore set to with all your might, and raise what is deficient. He cannot go with less than £60, independent of his expenses in fitting out here; if you can raise more he requires it. I would say, however, 'Go, brother Dunbar, with that amount, and may God open up you way?' Amen."

Meeting closed at two o'clock.

EVENING MEETING.

The Meeting opened by singing and prayer, at five o'clock. Elder Dunbar then introduced *Er. Rostron* to the saints as their future President.

Elder Rostron arose and said :—"Dear Brethren and Sisters, it does me good to meet with you this evening; but, like others who have spoken to-day, I have not language to express my feelings properly. It is only a few days since I received notice of my appointment to succeed Elder Dunbar in the Presidency of the Southampton Conference; and I must say, when I did receive it, my feelings were somewhat peculiar, knowing that I was about to leave my home, and seek one among strangers; but since I came among you my heart has been cheered, and I have been much pleased in attending this Conference, to see the union and good order which has prevailed during the day, and to hear that the prospects of spreading the Gospel and baptizing are good. I, however, feel my own weakness in taking such a responsibility; yes, I feel that I require the assistance of the Spirit of the Almighty to enable me to do the work required at my hands. Without the Spirit of God we can of ourselves do no good thing. Men have been trying for generations past to bring about unity; but they have failed—they could not do it; they wanted a great centre point to rally round; they required the Spirit, and a prophet's voice to guide them, without which contention and disunion increases. But I will not take up your time this evening, as I shall have other opportunities of addressing you. Brethren and sisters, give me as much of your confidence as you can, until I prove myself worthy of more; but I feel that if we carry out the plans and order laid down by Elder Dunbar that all will go right; and the work will prosper in our hands.

Elders Budge and Smith also offered a few interesting remarks, after which Elder Gates spoke at some length, stating his experience, and gave some account of his acquaintance with Joseph Smith, the prophet: said he knew him to be a man of God, and those who said to the contrary were liars. His remarks were powerful and instructive.

Elder Dunsen then read the total report of the Conference, and said :—"Dear Brethren and Sisters, you hear by the report that since last Conference we have baptized 115 persons into the kingdom of God. Some years ago this would have been considered a great work; and when I consider that these men around me have been the instruments of doing it, I feel that it is a marvellous work and a wonder; some of them can neither read nor write, so that the words of the prophet have been fulfilled, that the wisdom of the great and mighty should be brought to nought. Our Conference is now at an end till you receive notice to meet again. I shall most likely preach what is called a farewell discourse the last Sunday of this month. To the brethren who are about to go to their several fields of labour, good bye, and God bless you! May we stand, and meet in Zion."

Officers present:—2 Seventies, 18 Elders, 13 Priests, 14 Teachers, and 5 Deacons.

Conference closed at nine o'clock, with a benediction from Elder Gates.

It is unnecessary to make any remarks regarding the union, order and love that prevailed during this Conference—it will long be remembered by the saints when writings will not be found.

W. C. DUNBAR, *President*,
C. KIMISH, *Secretary*.

ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE CONFERENCE

To the Sisters throughout the Transatlantic.

W^Y. the Officers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at the aforementioned Conference, do hereby testify our approval of the labours of Elder Dunsen, our late President, in so efficiently Presiding over the aforesaid Conference. He has laboured diligently and faithfully in the duties devolving upon him as the Presiding Elder of a Conference. The principles which he has taught have been those of truth and virtue, and his conduct has corresponded with those principles. In fact, we may say he has set us an example worthy of the imitation of all saints. And we can further testify, that, so far as we have heard, he has not only the confidence of the saints in this Conference, but also in other Conferences in England, Scotland, the Isles of Man, Jersey, and Guernsey, where he has been labouring for about ten years. And in going away from us, he has our warmest thanks; and also our prayers, that the Lord will preserve him from the dangers of both sea and land, and lead him in safety to the valleys of the mountains. Even so. Amen.

Given under our hands, on behalf of the Conference, on the
17th of December, 1831.

RICHARD ROSTRON, *President of the Conference.*
JACOB GATES, *One of the Quorum of Seventies.*
W. EDDINGTON, *President of the Portsea Branch.*

THE CONFERENCE FESTIVAL.

A Conference Festival was held on Monday Afternoon, December 18th. The meeting was opened at half-past four o'clock, by the President, Elder Dunsen, giving out a hymn, which was sung by the congregation. Prayer by Elder Jacob Gates. Another hymn was sung; after which, the President gave a short address, showing the order necessary to be observed during the evening. The time was occupied by Elder Caswell, and other Elders, who gave short but lively and instructive addresses. Songs of Zion were occasionally sung by the choir, who were on the platform, tastefully dressed with white jackets, and wreaths of white roses on their heads. Their singing cheered the hearts of the assembly, who joined in chorus.

At six o'clock, refreshments were served by fourteen Sisters, dressed like the singers, which had a most charming appearance; they were served, in their turn, by Elders Rostron and Gates—verifying the Scripture, that the greatest will serve the least. A piece was then sung by Brothers Richards and Sims, and Sister Richards, called "Father, Son and Daughter," which was very affecting. Then Elder Rostron and others delivered addresses; thus, with singing by the choir, the time was taken up till nine o'clock, when refreshments were again served, as before. A song of Zion, composed by Eliza Snow, "O, my Father," was then sung by Sisters Wilkins and Richards; also, a beautiful piece was sung by Sister Richards, and Brothers Simmonds and Savage, called the "Hallelujah Anthem;" after which Elder Gates delivered an address, and was followed by several others. The meeting closed at half-past eleven, with a benediction from Elder Gates.

There was an abundant supply of refreshments, consisting of superior cake, Macarons, apples, muscatells, almonds, and a plentiful supply of cold water, carrying out the word of wisdom to the letter. A more orderly, decorous, and wisely conducted meeting we have seldom if ever witnessed. The room was beautifully decorated with flowers and evergreens, which, with the arrangement of the refreshments on the table, the sisters in white, sitting in the centre, and the singers on the platform, gave the whole a grand and imposing appearance, doing honour to Elder Eddington and his Committee of Management. All enjoyed themselves, and had but one fault to find, viz., closing so soon. The Sunday previous and the Monday, will be long remembered as a time of refreshment and joy.

W. C. D.